

CARE OF NEW-BORN & LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BABIES

Care of New-born

- ❖ A new-born baby is delicate and needs proper care.
- ❖ Baby should be :
 - Dried and wrapped immediately after birth. It should be cleaned with soft moist cloth and then wiped with a soft dry cloth.
 - Properly covered according to weather conditions and to be kept warm.
 - Head and feet should be kept covered.
 - Kept close to the mother's chest and abdomen.
 - Passing stools at least once in first 24 hours and urine at least once in first 48 hours.
- ❖ Do not bathe the new born baby for first 24-48 hours and low birth weight newborn babies for first 7 days.
- ❖ Burping should be done after every feed.
- ❖ Cord stump should be kept clean and dry. **Apply nothing on the cord stump except medicines as prescribed.**
- ❖ Keep the baby away from people who are sick and ensure baby is handled by only few people.



Schedule of Home-Visits for the care of the New-born by AWW

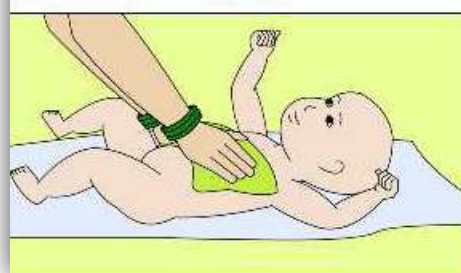
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- ❖ The purpose of these home visits is to ensure that the new-born is being kept warm and exclusively breastfed.
- ❖ The new-born requires a visit immediately after birth or within the first 24 hours, and on Day 2, if the baby is born at home.
- ❖ If the baby is born at the health facility, you should visit the baby on Day 3, 7, and 42.
- ❖ If the baby is born at home, visit the baby on Day 1, 3, 7, and 42.
- ❖ Additional visits are required for new-born babies which are low-birth weight, pre-term and sick.
- ❖ Low birth weight babies should be visited additionally on Day 14, 21 and 28 by AWW.

Care for Low Birth Weight Babies

Babies born less than 2.5 kgs require extra care as follows:

- Provide extra warmth and the baby should be kept warm and in close skin to skin contact with the mother (Kangaroo care).
- Family should ensure:
 - Baby is wrapped well with thin sheets and blankets
 - The head is covered to prevent heat loss.
 - The baby is kept very close to the mother's chest and abdomen.
 - Warm water filled bottles wrapped in cloth may be kept on either side of the baby's blankets, when not being kept close to mother's body.
 - The baby must be breastfed more frequently.
- Do not bathe the low birth weight baby for the first seven days.



Role of AWW

- ❖ Encourage & counsel mother to immediately start breastfeeding after delivery and exclusive breast feeding till 6 months.
- ❖ Discourage harmful practices like bottle feeds, early baths, giving other substances by mouth.
- ❖ Make home visits as suggested for new-born care.
- ❖ As soon as the baby is born, note the time & weight in MCP card.
- ❖ During each visit, weight of the child should be monitored and recorded on growth chart. Any deviation from the normal must be noted and acted upon as per the protocols.
- ❖ Identify early signs of sepsis or other illnesses in new-born and immediate refer to hospital.
- ❖ Help manage weak and LBW babies
 - Frequent visits-twice a day until feeding is well established
 - More efforts at cleanliness, feeding, warmth, including skin-to-skin care
 - Expressed breast milk as needed